

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1 1. (Cancelled)
- 1 2. (Currently Amended) The tape cartridge of claim [[1]] 8, wherein the leader tape has  
2 side edges, and wherein the slanted portion of the edge of the splicing tape is slanted with respect  
3 to the side edges of the leader tape.
- 1 3. (Original) The tape cartridge of claim 2, wherein the data tape has a longitudinal axis  
2 extending along a length of the data tape, and wherein the side edges are generally parallel to the  
3 longitudinal axis.
- 1 4. (Original) The tape cartridge of claim 3, wherein the splicing tape has another edge with  
2 a slanted portion that is slanted with respect to the side edges of the leader tape and data tape.
- 1 5. (Currently Amended) The tape cartridge of claim [[1]] 10, further comprising:  
2 a housing containing the reel; and  
3 a leader pin attached to the leader tape, the leader pin adapted to be removed from the  
4 housing.
- 1 6. (Original) The tape cartridge of claim 5, wherein the housing has an opening through  
2 which the leader pin is adapted to pass through during removal of the leader pin from the  
3 housing.
- 1 7. (Cancelled)

1 8. (Currently Amended) ~~The tape cartridge of claim 7,~~ A tape cartridge comprising:  
2 a reel;  
3 a data tape to store data, the data tape being wound on the reel and having side edges;  
4 a leader tape; and  
5 a splicing tape to link the leader tape to the data tape,  
6 the splicing tape having an edge with a slanted portion that is slanted with respect to the  
7 side edges of the data tape,  
8 wherein the data tape has a first end portion attached to the splicing tape and the leader  
9 tape has an end portion attached to the splicing tape, the first end portion of the data tape having  
10 a first end edge generally perpendicular to the side edges of the data tape, and the end portion of  
11 the leader tape having an end edge generally parallel to the first end edge of the data tape,  
12 wherein the data tape has a second end portion having a second end edge, the second end  
13 edge being slanted with respect to the side edges of the data tape.

1 9. (Currently Amended) The tape cartridge of claim 8, wherein the ~~source~~ reel has a hub,  
2 the second end portion of the data tape contacted to a surface of the hub.

1 10. (Currently Amended) ~~The tape cartridge of claim 1,~~ A tape cartridge comprising:  
2 a reel;  
3 a data tape to store data, the data tape being wound on the reel and having side edges;  
4 a leader tape; and  
5 a splicing tape to link the leader tape to the data tape,  
6 the splicing tape having an edge with a slanted portion that is slanted with respect to the  
7 side edges of the data tape,  
8 wherein the data tape has a first end portion attached to the splicing tape, the first end  
9 portion of the data tape having a first edge slanted with respect to the side edges of the data tape.

1 11. (Currently Amended) The tape cartridge of claim 10, wherein the leader tape has side  
2 edges and an end portion attached to the splicing tape, the end portion of the ~~splicing~~ leader tape  
3 having an edge slanted with respect to the side edges of the leader tape.

1 12. (Currently Amended) ~~The tape cartridge of claim 1,~~ A tape cartridge comprising:  
2 a reel;  
3 a data tape to store data, the data tape being wound on the reel and having side edges;  
4 a leader tape; and  
5 a splicing tape to link the leader tape to the data tape,  
6 the splicing tape having an edge with a slanted portion that is slanted with respect to the  
7 side edges of the data tape,  
8 wherein the edge of the splicing tape is generally V-shaped.

1 13. (Original) The tape cartridge of claim 12, wherein the data tape has a first end portion  
2 attached to the splicing tape, the first end portion of the data tape having a first edge that is  
3 generally V-shaped.

1 14. (Original) The tape cartridge of claim 13, wherein the leader tape has an end portion  
2 attached to the splicing tape, the end portion of the splicing tape having an edge that is generally  
3 V-shaped.

1 15. (Original) The tape cartridge of claim 12, wherein the data tape has an end portion  
2 mounted onto a hub of the source reel, the end portion of the data tape having an edge that is  
3 generally V-shaped.

1 16. (Currently Amended) A tape drive comprising:  
2 a take-up reel; and  
3 a tape cartridge removably mounted in the tape drive, the tape cartridge comprising:  
4 a source reel;  
5 a data tape to store data, the data tape being wound on the source reel and having  
6 side edges;  
7 a second tape having side edges; and  
8 a splicing tape to couple the second tape to the data tape,  
9 the splicing tape having an edge with a portion that is at an inclined angle with  
10 respect to the side edges of the data tape,  
11 wherein the data tape has an end portion with an edge and the second tape has an  
12 end portion with an edge, the end portion edge of the data tape being inclined with respect to the  
13 side edges of the data tape, and the end portion edge of the second tape being inclined with  
14 respect to the side edges of the second tape, the end portion edge of the data tape being held in  
15 proximity to the end portion edge of the second tape by the splicing tape.

1 17. (Original) The tape drive of claim 16, wherein the tape cartridge further comprises a  
2 leader pin attached to the second tape, the tape drive further comprising a mechanism to  
3 withdraw the leader pin from the tape cartridge.

1 18. (Currently Amended) The tape drive of claim ~~[[15]]~~ 16, wherein the data tape comprises  
2 one of a magnetic and optical storage medium.

1 19. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
2 providing a tape cartridge having a reel and a storage tape mounted on the reel, the  
3 storage tape to store data;  
4 providing a splicing tape to link plural tape portions of the storage tape, the splicing tape  
5 having side edges generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of the storage tape; and  
6 providing an end edge of the splicing tape, the end edge having a portion ~~slanted with~~  
7 respect to the side edges that is generally V-shaped.

1 20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein providing the splicing tape comprises  
2 providing a splicing tape to link a leader tape to a data tape.

1 21. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 19, further comprising:~~ A method  
2 comprising:  
3 providing a tape cartridge having a reel and a storage tape mounted on the reel, the  
4 storage tape to store data, the storage tape having a leader tape and a data tape;  
5 providing a splicing tape to link the leader tape to the data tape, the splicing tape having  
6 side edges generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of the storage tape;  
7 providing an end edge of the splicing tape, the end edge having a portion slanted with  
8 respect to the side edges;  
9 attaching a first end portion of the data tape to the splicing tape; and  
10 providing a slanted edge at a second end portion of the data tape that is mounted onto the  
11 reel.

1 22. (Original) A tape cartridge comprising:  
2 a reel;  
3 a data tape to store data, the data tape being wound on the reel and having side edges and  
4 a first end edge;  
5 a leader tape having an end edge in close proximity to the first end edge of the data tape,  
6 each of the end edge of the leader tape and first end edge of the data tape being slanted with  
7 respect to the side edges of the data tape.

1 23. (New) The tape cartridge of claim 8, wherein the second end portion of the data tape is  
2 mounted on the reel.

1 24. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising:  
2 attaching an end portion of the leader tape to the splicing tape;  
3 providing a slanted edge at the first end portion of the data tape; and  
4 providing a slanted edge at the end portion of the leader tape.

1 25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein providing the slanted edges at the first end  
2 portion and second end portion of the data tape comprises providing a slanted edge inclined with  
3 respect to side edges of the data tape, and  
4 wherein providing the slanted edge at the end portion of the leader tape comprises  
5 providing a slanted edge inclined with respect to side edges of the leader tape.

1 26. (New) The tape cartridge of claim 22, wherein the data tape has a second edge mounted  
2 on the reel, the second edge being slanted with respect to the side edges of the data tape.